

FISCAL NOTE

HB 156 - SB 842

April 4, 2005

SUMMARY OF BILL: Deletes T.C.A. 49-1-601 through 49-1-612 pertaining to state performance goals, the state accountability system, the Tennessee Value Added Assessment System (TVAAS), high school subject matter tests, and Alternative Assessments for children with disabilities.

Current law requires the State Board of Education to develop performance measures or goals and requires the Department of Education to implement an accountability system for those schools and LEAs that do not meet those goals. Current law also establishes the Value-added system as a means of assessing student learning, end-of-course subject matter tests for high schools, and requirements for implementing the Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) and TCAP-Alt assessments for children with disabilities. In effect, this bill will abolish these programs.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Decrease State Expenditures - Exceeds \$6,000,000

Other Fiscal Impact – Jeopardizes federal funds due to the deletion of certain provisions of current law pertaining to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the No Child Left Behind Act.

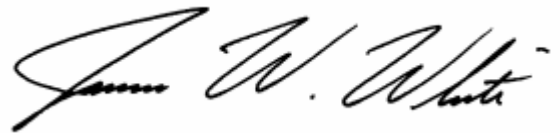
Assumptions:

- The removal of the Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) as required by T.C.A. 49-1-601 through 49-1-612 would eliminate the entire State Testing Program.
- Major components of the bill the state would no longer be required to fund include the TVAAS, development and delivery of additional end-of-course examinations, and norm-referenced portions of the TCAP tests. It is estimated that reductions in state expenditures could range between \$6,000,000 and \$7,500,000. These reductions are estimated based on 40% to 50% savings due to the elimination of these components.
- The state contract for TVAAS for the current year is \$1,133,800.
- If the state no longer contracted for TVAAS analysis, certain job duties with the local school systems could be shifted; however, the number of positions would not change.
- School systems currently testing 1st and 2nd graders (not required under current law) may no longer test these children.

- Deletion of certain provisions of law, such as Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), could jeopardize federal funding. The NCLB Act requires every state to have a unified accountability system for all public schools and would still require the state to continue administering annual criterion-referenced assessments in reading, math, and language arts. The IDEA requires the state to offer an alternative assessment for students with disabilities which would be deleted under the statutory provisions of the TCAP-Alt.
- The state and local school systems would continue to meet all applicable federal laws associated with testing and accountability, even if such provisions are deleted from current law, due to the endangerment of federal education funds.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James W. White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" written in a smaller, more compact script than the last name "White".

James W. White, Executive Director